RG104 E-1 Box 133

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

Washington, D. C., December 17th, 1884

Sir:

Enclosed find copy of a communication from Messrs. S. H. and H. Chapman, of Philadelphia, offering to sell for $500. "for the cabinet of coins and "medals at the Philadelphia Mint "the only known specimen of the U. S. "Diplomatic Medal which was "presented to the French diplomats, "the Marquis de la Luzerne and the "Count de Moustier, by President Washington "through Thomas Jefferson, Secretary

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"of State, and also to commemorate "the Independence of the United States", for your consideration and opinion. If deemed advisable to purchase the medal it will be necessary to procure a special appropriation, as the amount authorized to be expended for this purpose for a cabinet at your Mint is limited to $300.

I also send you by express copy of Loubat's work on Numismatics (two volumes), to which reference is made in the letter of Messrs. Chapman.

Very respectfully,

Horace Binehard

Director

A. London Snowden, Esq.,
Supt. Mint,
Philadelphia

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Washington D.C.
December 17-84

Burchard-

Diplomatic Medal
Correspondence-

RECEIVED
DEC 19 1884
U.S. MINT, PHILA.

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Cambridge, Mass. 27 Dec. 84.

Dear Sir

The two copies of the "Diplomatic medal" which I saw in Gatteaux's Cabinet at Paris, had the name of Dupré engraved on them; and my lead impression compared with them, was absolutely identical with them.

Chapman's specimen, which they showed to me here, last september, although is certainly not the original "Diplomatic medal" as it came out from the hands of the artist Dupré, for it is not only without his name, but the inscription is not the same, the size of the letters being different.

Very respectfully

Jules Marcou

A. London Snowden Esq.

Philadelphia, Pa.

RG104 E-1 Box 133

IMPORTERS OF AND DEALERS IN ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN COINS, ENGRAVED GEMS, BRONZES, POTTERY, AND ANTIQUITIES, FOREIGN COINS AND MEDALS.

SAMUEL HUDSON CHAPMAN. HENRY CHAPMAN, JR.

S. H. & H. CHAPMAN,

Numismatists and Antiquaries,

NO. 2009 ARCH STREET,

PHILADELPHIA.

DEALERS IN AMERICAN COINS AND MEDALS, AND ESPECIALLY IN FINE AND RARE SPECIMENS, NUMISMATIC BOOKS, INDIAN POTTERY AND STONE IMPLEMENTS, PATENT CABINET.

12th Mo. 20th 1884

Col. A. Loudon Snowden.

Dear Sir.

We give herewith the various points of genuineness of the Diplomatic medal which we have offered to the U. S for purchase

1st The authentic complete history of its execution in 1790-1, by orders of President Washington, through Thos Jefferson who in letters describes the design which this specimen fulfils. The work was under the care of Wm Short U.S. Agt. in Paris and whose letters in reference to it are extant.

2nd The appearance of this medal is of thorough authenticity and genuineness.

3rd It is a struck medal.

4th It is of the style of execution of Dupré and of the color of the bronzing of the period.

5th a. The obverse is from the same die as the lead trial impressions first made and now in the possession of Mr Jules Marcou and others.

b The reverse is from a different die, which is thoroughly covered by the statement in the letter of Mr Wm Short U. S agent at Paris that one of the dies had broken for the secon

RG104 E-1 Box 133

IMPORTERS OF AND DEALERS IN ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN COINS, ENGRAVED GEMS, BRONZES, POTTERY, AND ANTIQUITIES, FOREIGN COINS AND MEDALS.

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DEALERS IN AMERICAN COINS AND MEDALS, AND ESPECIALLY IN FINE AND RARE SPECIMENS, NUMISMATIC BOOKS, INDIAN POTTERY AND STONE IMPLEMENTS, PATENT CABINET.

(2) No. 188

time. The absence of the name of Dupré is accounted for that it being the second or third die he did not sign it, for it is the custom with many artists not to sign a replica of their works

6 The obverse die could not be reproduced so as to show no variation from the original.
It has been compared by Mr Jules Marcou, Mr Barber and ourselves and all agree that the obverse and reverse dies are as above stated.

7 It could only be reproduced at great expense, and would vary from the original.

8 History of this specimen. It was brought to this Country in 1863 when its connection with our affairs and history of its authorization was unknown. It passed through two hands and was purchased by the late Charles S. Bushnell Esq. of New York from whose collection we obtained it.

9 The question of the genuineness of this medal has never been raised by any numismatist, collector or expert who has examined it; and Mr Bushnell who possessed the finest collection of Early American coins and medals in the World stated to us that it was genuine and original.

RG104 E-1 Box 133

IMPORTERS OF AND DEALERS IN ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN COINS, ENGRAVED GEMS, BRONZES, POTTERY, AND ANTIQUITIES, FOREIGN COINS AND MEDALS.

SAMUEL HUDSON CHAPMAN. HENRY CHAPMAN, JR.

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NO. 2009 ARCH STREET,

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DEALERS IN AMERICAN COINS AND MEDALS, AND ESPECIALLY IN FINE AND RARE SPECIMENS, NUMISMATIC BOOKS, INDIAN POTTERY AND STONE IMPLEMENTS, PATENT CABINET.

(3)

No. 188

Lastly. We the undersigned, do hereby guarantee the specimen of the United States Diplomatic Medal commemorating the Independence of the US. which we have offered for purchase to the US. through the Director of the Mint for the US. collection at the Mint of Philadelphia, to be a genuine original impression and that we can substantiate the counts above written.

S. H & H. Chapman.

Numismatists & Antiquaries.

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Copy

Cambridge, Mass 27. Dec. 84

Dear Sir:

The two copies of the "Diplomatic medal" which I saw in Gatteaux's Cabinet at Paris, had the name of Dupré engraved on them; and my lead impression, compared with them was absolutely identical with them.

Chapman's specimen, which they showed to me here, last September, ~~although~~ is certainly not the original "Diplomatic Medal" as it came out from the hands of the artist Dupré, for it is not only without his name, but the inscription is not the same, the size of the letters being different.

Very respectfully
Jules Marcou.

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.
Philada
Pa.

Cambridge, Mass. 25 February 1885

yes! suppress the word <u>although</u>.

Jules Marcou

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Copy

Printed Heading

Hon H. C. Burchard
Director of the U. S. Mint
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:-

We desire to offer through you to the U. S. Government, for the cabinet of Coins & Medals at the Philadelphia Mint the, only known specimen of the U. S. Diplomatic Medal which was presented to the French Diplomats, the Marquis de la Luzerne and the Count de Monstier, by President Washington through Thomas Jefferson, Secy of State, and also to commemorate the Independence of the United States.

Description of medal, obverse, Arms of the United States; Heraldic eagle, bearing on his breast the shield of the U. S, a scroll in his beak inscribed, E Pluribus Unum, an olive branch

RG104 E-1 Box 133

in right and a bunch of thirteen arrows in left talon, above thirteen stars forming the centre of a splendor of rays, around which is a circle of clouds, The United States of America. Reverse, America, represented by an Indian Queen seated holding a cornucopia in her left hand, at her right an anchor, a barrel and two bales of merchandise; before her stands Mercury bearing his caduceus and extending his right hand; in back ground, the ocean on which is a vessel sailing to left. To Peace and Commerce, in exergue IV JVL MDCCLXXVI. Size 4s 16th Bronze. very fine Unique.

History. This medal was executed in 1791 by the French artist Dupré under the orders of Thos Jefferson Secy. of State, through the order of Mr Short, U. S. Agent, in Paris; and after repeated delays, one of the dies having broken twice (2), an impression in gold was presented to the Marquis de la Luzerne and another to the Count de Moustier and six impressions were struck in bronze none of which are known to be in

RG104 E-1 Box 133

existence with the single exception, of the present specimen. In 1874, official search was made for them and for the dies, both in the department, in the mint, and in the Mint at Paris, but no trace of them was found nor did the French Mint at Paris possess a specimen.

Genuiness. The genuiness of this specimen is unquestioned and a personal guarantee will accompany it.

This specimen was brought to this country in 1863, and it was afterwards purchased by the late Chas I. Bushnell Esq. of N. Y. City, who was a diligent numismatick and prized it as one of his greatest gems, valuing it at $1,000.

In 1882, Col A. Sowden Snowden, in an article in the Public Ledger (see vol. XVII No 2. American Journal of Numismatics page 27 herewith enclosed) relating to the medal (then just issued) of the Great Seal of the U. S, States and regrets that he does not

RG104 E-1 Box 133

know of the existence of one of these medals, and upon our showing him ours he was quite astonished and delighted.

There have been many notices and articles on this made quite a number of which note this identical specimen as being unique, and we send them to you herewith with tags and references, In the magnificient book on the "Medalic history of the United States of America" by J. G. Loabat of N. Y. City, are given all the official documents relating to it and his illustration is made from a plaster cast supplied by Mr. Bushnell from this specimen (after examining the books and pamphlets please return, we also inclose a photograph taken from the piece)

While we value it @ $1,000 or even more as it is, with it, still we have concluded to place a reasonable figure upon it as we desire

RG104 E-1 Box 133

desire to see it in the cabinet of the U. S. Mint where there certainly should be a specimen.

Our price is $800. We have sold some of the finest & rarest U. S. Coins and Medals and name the following as instances Bushnells Good Samaritan Shilling of Massachusetts 1652 for $650., Bushnells, Lord Baltimore penny unique $850., Bushnells New York Doubloon (Mint owns one) gold c $800; U. S. Pattern Cents 1792 by Birch a $295 & cent of 1792 with bust of Liberty @ $300. (Mint owns only one that we know) N. J. Cent 1786 Date under plough beam $250., Cent of 1793 bright red as it fell from the die $200. Set of 6 Washington Medals $800; 1792. Roman head of Washington, cent $2150. and a great many others too numerous to mention.

We send a copy of Sabatos work and the number of American Journal of Numismatics, which contain articles upon it, by express, to day, all charges prepaid, which after examination please return.

Respectfully submitted S. H. & H. Chapman
Numismatist Antiquarian

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

, 188 .

The following, are the medals in Loubat's work Vol. 2. with the name of Dupre upon them, All but Gen. Greenes, have the name on both sides, Obverse and reverse. We have them all in our Cabinet.

Plate VII. Brigadier General Daniel Morgan
Do. XI. Nathaniel Greene
Do. XIV. Libertas America
Do. XV. Benjamin Franklin
Do. XVI. Benjamin Franklin, (Different)
Do. XVII. Captain John Paul Jones.

The lead proofs, owned by Jules Marcou of Cambridge Mass. from which our "Diplomatic Medal was copied in 1876 are undoubtedly genuine, as they came direct from the Dupre family. See "American Journal of Numismatics" Vol. IX. No. 4 Page, 78. They also bear Dupre's name.

M.C.

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

, 188 .

The medal owned by Chapman Brothers, may be one of the original bronze copys of the Diplomatic medals, by A. Dupre., but the absence of the engravers name upon it makes it very doubtful. It is hardly possible that he would omit it on this important medal, when it appears on all others of his, as far as I can ascertain. See "Loubat's Medalic History of the United States". Vol. II. Plates. In which there are seven American medals represented as engraved by Dupre., All have Dupre's name upon them, except the Diplomatic medal, Plate XX. which was copied from Chapman's, Loaned for the purpose by Mr. Bushnell of N. Y. who was the owner of it, at the time the above work was published.

RG104 E-1 Box 133

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

, 188 .

Messrs, Chapman's point 5. "The obverse is from the same die as the lead trial impression first made and now in the possession of Mr. Jules Marcou and others."

Correct, except the lead impression has Dupree's name upon it.

Point 6.- "It is the custom of many artists not to sign a replicate of their work."

Mr. Barber, Mr, Morgan and Mr. Keys think differently.

Messrs. Chapman maintain that the reverse, was the broken die, The reverse of the lead impression does not bear the name of Dupree.

MC.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 133

[Letter One:]
[Abstract:] Diplomatic Medal Correspondence.

Treasury Department,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
December 17, 1884

Sir:

Enclosed find copy of a communication from Messrs. S.H. and H. Chapman, of Philadelphia, offering to sell for $500 "for the cabinet of coins and
"medals at the Philadelphia Mint
"the only known specimen of the U.S.
"Diplomatic Medal which was
"presented to the French diplomats,
"the Marquis de la Luzerne and the
"Count de Moustier, by President Washington
"through Thomas Jefferson, Secretary
"of State, and also to commemorate
"the Independence of the United States", for your consideration and opinion. If deemed advisable to purchase the medal it will be necessary to procure a special appropriation, as the amount authorized to be expended for this purpose for a cabinet at your Mint is limited to $300.

I also send you be express copy of Loubat's work on Numismatics (two volumes), to which reference is made in the letter of Messrs. Chapman.

Very respectfully,
Horatio C. Burchard
Director

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.
Supt. Mint,
Philadelphia

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 133

[Letter Two:]

Cambridge, Mass.
December 27, 1884

Dear Sir

The two copies of the "Diplomatic medal" which I saw in Gatteaux's Cabinet at Paris, had the name of Dupré engraved on them; and my lead impression compared with them, was absolutely identical with them.

Chapman's specimen, which they showed to me here, last September, although is certainly not the original "Diplomatic medal" as it came out from the hands of the artist Dupré, for it is not only without his name, but the inscription is not the same, the size of the letters being different.

Very respectfully,
Jules Marcony

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 133

[Letter Three:]

S.H. & H. Chapman,
Numismatists and Antiquaries,
Philadelphia,
December 20, 1884

Col. A. Loudon Snowden

Dear Sir,

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1st. The authentic complete history of its execution in 1790-1, by ordered of President Washington, through Thos. Jefferson who in letters describes the design which this specimen fulfils. The work was under the care of Wm. Short U.S. Agt., in Paris and whose letters in reference to it are extant.

2nd. The appearances of this medal is of thorough authenticity and genuineness.

3rd. It is a struck medal.

4th. It is of the style of execution of Dupré and of the color of the bronzing of the period.

5th a. The obverse is from the same die as the lead trial impressions first made and now in the possession of Mr. Jules Marcon and others.

b. The reverse is from a different die, which is thoroughly covered by the statement in the letter of Mr. Wm. Short U.S. Agent at Paris that one of the dies had broken for the second time. The absence of the name of Dupré is accounted for that it being the second or third die he did not sign it, for it is the custom with many artists not to sign a replica of their works.

6. The obverse die could not be reproduced so as to show no variation from the original. It has been compared by Mr. Jules Marcon, Mr. Barber and ourselves and all agree that the obverse and reverse dies are as above stated.

7. It could only be reproduced at great expense and would vary from the original.

8. History of this specimen. It was brought to this country in 1863 when its connection with our affairs and history of its authorization was unknown. It passed through two hands and was purchased by the late Charles S. Bushnell Esq. of New York from whose collection we obtained it.

9. The question of the genuineness of this medal has never been raised by any numismatist, collector or expert who has examined it; and Mr. Bushnell who possessed the finest

collection of Early American coins and medals in the World stated to us that it was genuine and original.

Lastly, We the undersigned, do hereby guarantee the specimen of the United States Diplomatic Medal commemorating the Independence of the U.S. which we have offered for purchase to the U.S. through the Director of the Mints for the U.S. collection at the Mint of Philadelphia, to be a genuine original impression and that we can substantiate the counts above written.

S.H. & H. Chapman
Numismatists & Antiquaries.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 133

[Letter Four:]

Copy

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December 27, 1884

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Very respectfully,
Jules Marcon

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.
Philada.
Pa.

Cambridge, Mass.
February 25, 1885

Yes! Suppress the word <u>although</u>.

Jules Marcon

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 133

[Letter Five:]

Copy

Printed Heading

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Director of the U.S. Mint
Washington, D.C.

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Description of medal, obverse, Arms of the United States; Heraldic eagle, bearing on his breast the shield of the U.S., a scroll in his beak inscribed, E Pluribus Unum, an olive branch in right and a bunch of thirteen arrows in left talon, above thirteen stars forming the centre of a splendor of rays, around which is a circle of clouds, The United States of America. Reverse, America, represented by an Indian Queen seated holding a cornucopia in her left hand, at her right an anchor, a barrel and two bales of merchandise; before her stands Mercury bearing his cadences and extending his right hand; in back ground, the ocean on which is a vessel sailing to left; To Peace and Commerce, in exerque IVJVLMDCCLXXVI. Size 43 16th, Bronze, very fine Unique.

History. This medal was executed in 1791 by the French artist Dupré under the orders of Thos. Jefferson Secy. of State, through the order of Mr. Short, U.S. Agent, in Paris; and after repeated delays, one of the dies having broken twice (2), an impression in gold was presented to the Marques de la Luzerne and another to the Count de Monstier and six impressions were struck in bronze none of which are known to be in existence with the single exception, of the present specimen. In 1874, official search was made for them and for the dies, both in the department, in the mint, and in the Mint at Paris, but no trace of them was found nor did the French Mint at Paris possess a specimen.

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issued) of the Great Seal of the U.S., states and regrets that he does not know of the existence of one of these medals, and upon our showing him ours he was quite astonished and delighted.

There have been many notices and articles on this made quite a number of which note this identical specimen as being unique, and we send them to you herewith with tags and references. In the magnificent book on the "Medalic history of the United States of America" by J.F. Loubat of N.Y. City, are given all the official documents relating to it and his illustration is made from a plaster cast supplied by Mr. Bushnell from this specimen (after examining the books and pamphlets please return, we also inclose a phototype taken from the piece).

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We send a copy of Loubats work and the number of American Journal of Numismatics, which contain articles upon it, by express, to day, all charges prepaid, which after examination please return.

Respectfully submitted
S.H. & H. Chapman
Numismatist Antiquarian

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 133

[Letter Six:]

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

The following, are the medals in Loubats work Vol. 2, with the name of Dupré upon them, all but Gen. Greene, have the name on both sides, obverse and reverse. We have them all in our Cabinet.

Plate VII.	Brigadier General Daniel Morgan.
Do. XI.	Nathaniel Greene
Do. XIV.	Libertas America
Do. XVI.	Benjamin Franklin
Do. XVI.	Benjamin Franklin, (Different)
Do. XVII.	Captain John Paul Jones.

The lead proofs, owned by Jules Marcon of Cambridge Mass. from which our "Diplomatic Medal was copied in 1876 are undoubtedly genuine, as they came direct from the Dupré family. See "American Journal of Numismatics" Vol. IX. No. 4 page 78. They also bear Duprés name.

MC.

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

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Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

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Messrs. Chapman maintain that the reverse was the broken die. The reverse of the lead impression does not bear the name of Dupré.

MC.